

WILLIAM E. SIMON

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Cordially,



William E. Simon

A note from
the former
Treasury Secretary

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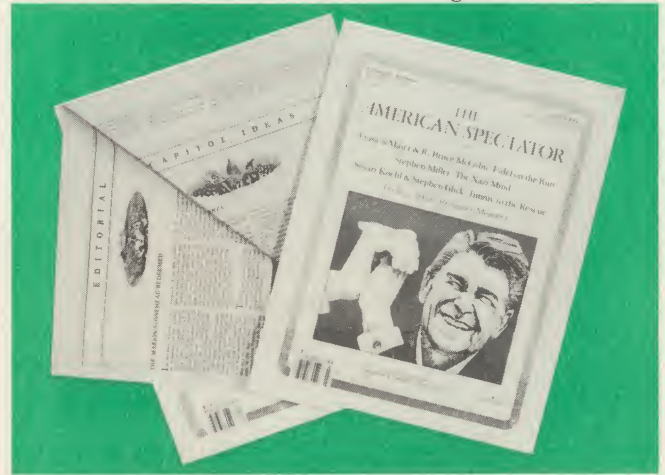
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Jan 81

THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR.

In Alaska, the state Council on Science and Technology has dealt a death blow to the fossil fuel industry by funding a proposal to construct washing machines powered by dog teams and modified toilet plungers.

The Bonnie Baking Company has triumphed in its four-year struggle with the state of Michigan, which had proscribed the company's white bread for being one inch longer than state officials deemed either safe or prudent.

And in South Dakota, a Circuit Court has ruled in its infinite wisdom that there is no reason to remove from the bench a Sioux Falls judge who was arrested, tried, and convicted on shoplifting charges.

Dear Reader:

The foregoing items were recently culled at random from the daily press and from television newscasts by editors of THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR.

We believe they speak eloquently of the prevailing levels of intelligence, integrity, and devotion to democratic ideals among the political and cultural leaders of our nation today.

If you--like increasing numbers of other thoughtful, hard-working citizens and taxpayers--are more than a little fed up with this state of affairs, then it's probably time for you to join the ranks of subscribers to THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR.

In the world of politics and ideas today, THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR provides a steady diet of clearheaded analysis, biting wit, and old-fashioned horse sense...a refreshing contrast to the superficial and muddleheaded parrotings which pass for reportage and interpretation almost everywhere else in the press and on television.

If you're interested in what THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR offers, may I suggest you give careful consideration to the subscription invitation spelled out on the pages that follow?

(over, please)

First, However, A Few Words About THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR's Contents

As monthly magazines go, THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR is young. We have been sticking our two cents into the world of politics and ideas now for only a bit over ten years. During much of that time we were known as THE ALTERNATIVE: AN AMERICAN SPECTATOR. Now we are called more briefly THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR, and we are growing rapidly in circulation and in influence.

As you'll see when you examine it, THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR is literate, civilized, and frankly intellectual. We believe in good writing, good manners, and good clean logical thinking.

As for our political viewpoint, it is cheekily independent and irreverent, as befits a magazine whose staff averages 26 years of age. We do not fit into anybody's ideological pigeonhole, be it right, left, or center. We abhor violence. We detest fraud and sham. We uphold the democratic process, even for those who seek to destroy it. And we are not afraid to recognize that democracy has enemies at home and abroad.

If we have to label ourselves, we prefer to be thought of as followers in the journalistic tradition of the late H. L. Mencken. That means we gleefully turn a withering barrage of ridicule and laughter on hypocrites, buffoons, and imposters...no matter how lofty a position they occupy, no matter how sacrosanct a reputation they possess.

Here, For Example, Are A Few of the Articles and Features You'd Have Encountered If You'd Been Reading Us in Recent Months

An Imminent Electric Orgy. A well-informed specialist in public program management, Fred D. Baldwin, injects coolheaded sense into the overheated controversy surrounding nuclear versus oil versus coal versus wind versus solar energy. The critical issue, Baldwin demonstrates, is not how to create additional energy facilities, but how to make more efficient use of existing technology, which is wasteful and obsolescent. His remedy? Get rid of the Federal subsidies that destroy incentives to improve and cut costs (i.e., to conserve); and get rid of Federal regulations that prevent competitive suppliers, methods, and pricing.

An Englishman Looks at Teddy. Sluggish of intellect, only passable as a speaker, meager in political achievement, and of questionable (to say the least) moral character, Edward Kennedy nonetheless commands the hysterical loyalty of adulatory hordes. Peregrine Worsthorne, associate editor of the Sunday Telegraph of London, proffers a plausible explanation of this mystery: like the Englishmen and Dutchmen who today pay homage to personages of utter mediocrity simply because they are "royal," an alarming number of Americans crave a royal family. The Kennedys, faute de mieux, appear to be it.

Revolution's End. This marks the first time an American journalist has been able to interview Carlos Franqui, since 1968 an exile from Fidel Castro's Cuba. Franqui was a comrade of Castro when both were young men in the anti-Batista underground of pre-revolutionary Cuba.

After Batista was overthrown, Franqui remained a trusted aide and confidant of the new Cuban ruler. But, as time went on, Franqui became disenchanted--and eventually disgusted--with Castro's dictatorial methods and his willingness to become a Soviet stooge. When his disaffection became known, Franqui fled for his life. In this interview with R. Bruce McCollm, Franqui tells an insider's story of the bloody and tragic fraud which is the Castro revolution.

The Seven Lessons of SALT. Kenneth L. Adelman, formerly assistant to the Secretary of Defense and one of the best-informed men in America on the respective military strengths of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A., offers the definitive rebuttal to all pro-SALT treaty arguments. He presents seven compelling reasons why SALT II should be repudiated and our country's dangerously eroded defenses promptly built up.

Low Life and High Hack. The literary industry craves geniuses. When none exist they must be manufactured. Such is the case with Norman Mailer, asserts critic Bryan F. Griffin in an acerbic essay on Mailer's latest opus, The Executioner's Song. This puerile fantasy--a cheap and vulgar attempt to impose socially redeeming significance on the sordid life and squalid mind of murderer Gary Gilmore--is, according to Griffin, inept, pandering, pretentious, hollow, and worst of all, a bore.

Red-Curtained Catacombs. The U.S.S.R. occupied Lithuania in a deal with Hitler nearly 40 years ago. But it never succeeded in crushing the anti-Communist spirit in the tiny Baltic nation. Led mainly by Catholic priests and nuns, Lithuanian resistance continues to this day, in spite of savage Red reprisals. Why, asks Francis X. Maier, do our "humanitarian" liberal media so pointedly ignore it?

The Good Society. Liberal-chic intellectuals scorn "middle class" America for clinging to a view of our society as inherently free, just, and superior to other systems. Who is out of touch with reality, Midge Decter wonders, the "middle class" or the liberals?

The Continuing Crisis. This is the title of our monthly lead editorial piece written by editor-in-chief R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr. The rapier intellect, wicked wit, and graceful style of 36-year-old Tyrrell have won him plaudits from a wide range of admirers, and grudging compliments from a host of enemies--both of whom follow his work in the SPECTATOR and in his weekly column in the Washington Post and other papers across the country.

Who Else Reads THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR?

Surprisingly, people who stand at many different points along the political spectrum. Ponder these comments, for example:

William F. Buckley, Jr., founder of the conservative National Review: "THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR is one of the most amusing and outrageous and interesting journals in America."

Doris Grumbach, formerly literary editor of the middle-of-the-road

(over, please)

New Republic: "THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR is one of the most entertaining pieces of public thinking on any side of the political fence. And it is scrupulously edited."

William E. Simon, former Secretary of the Treasury: "THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR is a major forum for a growing number of pro-business and pro-liberty writers. [It is] intellectually respectable and really entertaining to read."

Irving Kristol, member of the Board of Contributors of the Wall Street Journal: "THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR is a lively, provocative, and intelligent magazine which I read faithfully. There is nothing else quite like it on the American scene."

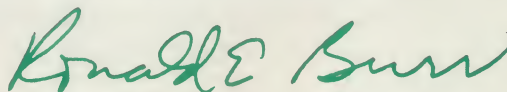
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Ronald E. Burr
Publisher

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